

years and fourth in the last nine years. That's a better record than the Duke Blue Devils!

As the championship game Most Valuable Player Velinda Vuncannon told the High Point Enterprise, "We just played with a lot of heart tonight," she said. "We played as one, as a unit. We came out with a fire. It's great to have another ring on my finger. It's a wonderful way to go out." Vuncannon earned MVP honors with a performance that included 17 points, 13 assists, and four steals. The win, however, was a total team effort. Leslie Cook led the way with 23 points, while Rachel Stockdale added 19 points, and Nikki Warren chimed in with 13.

Congratulations are in order for Head Coach Kenny Carter and his outstanding staff in leading the Bison to their undefeated season. Joining Coach Carter on the bench were Associate Coach Jetanna McClain and Assistant Coaches Chris Martin, Dwain Waddell, Chris Shafer, and Twila Filipiak. Supporting the team effort were Managers Chastity Brown and Shauntae Pratt. Ably assisting were Video Managers Alan Byerly and David Gallemore, along with Scorekeeper Jessica Allen.

Of course, as Coach Carter would be the first to say, the praise must begin with the players. Members of this year's championship squad included Leslie Cook, Kathryn Fulp, Mary Gheen, Erica Green, Brittany Hendley, Laura Kirby, Shameka Leach, Jillian Martin, Krystion Obie, Rachel Stockdale, Velinda Vuncannon, and Nikki Warren. So, we congratulate the players, coaches and staff, along with Athletic Director Gary Whitman and Principal Helen Lankford, and everyone associated with High Point Central High School for winning the Girls 2-A state basketball championship.

Meanwhile, across town, the Red Raiders of T. Wingate Andrews High School are celebrating their own championship. On March 10, Andrews captured the Boys 3-A state basketball championship with a 63-60 victory over Kinston High School. The Raiders proved the old adage that it is good to peak late in the season. Andrews had lost four of its first 10 games to open the season but was riding a 12-game winning streak going into the title contest with the Vikings of Kinston. The Raiders, who finished with a record of 26-6, knew it was their night. "We wanted this more than anybody," Will Price told the High Point Enterprise. "We won 13 games in a row (counting the title game) and proved we're one of the best teams in the state right now." Price, a sophomore point guard, had a game-high 28 points, including hitting 5-of-6 free throws in the final 40 seconds of the contest, to capture Most Valuable Player honors.

This was the second state basketball championship in the school's history. The Red Raiders had last won the state title in 1995. Leading the way this year was Head Coach Frank Hairston. Assistant Coaches David Kirkland and Jim Pierson, Head Athletic Trainer Laura Blacksten and Assistant Athletic Trainer Summer Green, along with Managers Julian Weathers and Aaron Ollis ably assisted him.

The members of the championship squad included Freddie Aughtry-Lindsay, Tim Bowden, Jeff Collie, Lester Dunn, Steve Gillespie, Corey Hill, James Ledbetter, Rod McCollum, Will Price, Brandel Shouse, and Gary Thomas.

Everyone at T. Wingate Andrews High School can be justifiably proud of the Red Raiders basketball team. We congratulate Athletic Director David Mizell and Principal Jerry Hairston and everyone at Andrews for winning the state Boys 3-A basketball championship.

While they may still be celebrating in Durham, we know the real home of champions is in High Point, North Carolina. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District, we congratulate High Point Central High School and T. Wingate Andrews High School for winning state basketball championships.

A TRIBUTE TO THE STEWART FAMILY AND THE STEWART FUNERAL HOME 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, last December 2, 2000 in Washington, DC, members of the Stewart Family celebrated the 100th year Anniversary of Stewart Funeral Home.

John Thomas Stewart, Sr., a young African-American Christian man traveled along dirt roads and trolley tracks to Washington, DC, holding tight to a big dream. He was determined to serve his community and to provide dignified funeral services for Washingtonians. He borrowed money from his brothers and sisters to purchase a casket and a gravesite, and then walked to a Northeast Washington home and arranged for the burial of a child. Mr. Stewart founded the Stewart Funeral Home at 62 H Street NW., Washington, DC, marking the beginning of a rich heritage and tradition of professionalism and community service in the Washington, DC metropolitan community, referred to by the Stewart family as "The Tradition of Stewartship."

To meet the needs of rapid growth, John T. Stewart, Sr. and his family expanded the business and twice moved the funeral home to new locations on H Street NE. During this first half-century, the elder John Stewart became well-known throughout the local community for his Christian charity, kindness and benevolence. The Federation of Civic Associations in 1957 dedicated a booklet in commemoration to him that stated, "... John Stewart did not aspire to be famous or great. Rather, he was a plain, God-fearing man who sought only to live a full and useful life, devoted to his family, his business, his church and the community. He was dedicated to helping others and lending a helping hand to the less fortunate. He carved out a niche in the hearts of his neighbors through his kindness, tolerance and generosity. His unselfish willingness to help others, without thought of credit or reward, looms large in the rich spiritual legacy he left, transcending fame and greatness." John T. Stewart, Sr. had the wisdom and forethought to share his knowledge and philosophy with his eventual successor, John T. Stewart, Jr.

John T. Stewart, Jr. was indoctrinated with the proud Tradition of Stewartship and continued his father's legacy. He and his wife, Margaret Stewart, who gave up her career as a

teacher in Prince George's County, continued the tradition of sympathy and service to the community, serving in both leadership and advisory roles in numerous civic, religious and public service organizations.

In 1964, with continued growth of the business and inherited dedication to providing top quality care and sympathy, John T. Stewart, Jr. built a first rate facility at 4001 Benning Road, NE., which today stands as a landmark institution in Washington, DC. This new and modern facility was built as a memorial to John, Sr., the founder of Stewart Funeral Home. And like his father, John Stewart, Jr. provided guidance to his sons in funeral service and in the importance of community responsibility.

In 2001, Margaret Stewart, her sons, John T. Stewart III and Carlin O. Stewart, and her granddaughter, Stacye, vigilantly continue the Tradition of Stewartship. Stacye, now under the tutelage of her father, John III, represents the fourth generation of the Stewart Funeral Home family. While their business has changed locations a few times over the last hundred years, the Stewart family has held steadfast to the legacy and landmark principles of quality, integrity, and dignified professional services and community involvement.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute to the Stewart family for their outstanding contributions to our community.

JOSEPH BATTISTO HONORED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN LEGISLATURE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my very good friend Joseph W. Battisto, who represented Monroe County with distinction in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives from 1983 to 2000.

Since Joe and I had a shared constituency, I had the privilege of working with him on numerous occasions, and I am pleased to join with his many friends, who will hold a dinner in his honor April 19, to thank him for his exceptional service to the people of Monroe County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Joe, who was born in 1931 in Mount Pocono, is a lifelong resident of the Poconos. He graduated from Stroudsburg High School in 1949, earned a bachelor's degree from East Stroudsburg University in 1956 and graduated with a master's degree from the University of Scranton in 1966. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955.

Joe's dedication to education stems from his 23 years as an English teacher. At the end of his teaching career, he was the head of his department at Pocono Mountain High School.

Before serving the people of Monroe County in Harrisburg, he served as a councilman in Mount Pocono Borough from 1970 to 1973 and as mayor from 1974 to 1981.

Mr. Speaker, Joe's accomplishments in the Legislature are too numerous to list them all here, but a few examples will serve to illustrate his dedication to serving the people. Joe

worked with Senator Frank O'Connell to preserve a rail line through the county that a company wanted to dismantle. He also worked to obtain funds to promote tourism in Monroe County, so that the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau consistently receives among the highest amounts of state dollars of the more than 50 agencies in Pennsylvania each year. He was a leader in establishing the Pocono Mountain Industrial Park, started the Monroe County Litter Control Program and a signage control committee to preserve the natural beauty of the Poconos.

Joe's legislative accomplishments included authoring the Human Relations Act of 1991 that prevents discrimination in areas such as housing, employment and education, authoring a law to allow people 30 days to return defective hearing aids for a full refund, and a law to allow 14- and 15-year-olds to work at ski facilities, which was of great importance to the Poconos. In addition, he started the influential House Bipartisan Anti-Gambling Coalition.

As chairman and leading Democrat on the House Transportation Committee, he worked to ensure the safety of all Pennsylvanians, writing a law that regulates the transportation of solid waste, with a ban on "back hauling" of garbage in trucks that transport food, and the teen driver licensing law that provides for increased instruction for young drivers.

Working for Monroe County, Joe initiated the Route 209 project that is now beginning final design and right-of-way acquisition, obtained funding for all traffic control devices on Route 611 from Stroud Township to Mount Pocono for 15 years, and personally pushed PennDOT to have a church at the intersection of Shafer Schoolhouse Road and Business Route 209 moved and preserved to correct the dangerous intersection.

And from his post on the Education Committee, he initiated School Performance Grants to reward schools that improve in areas such as the graduation rate and percentage of students who go on to higher education. He also helped to develop charter schools and the Early Intervention Education Program.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Battisto was a devoted and enthusiastic legislator. He cared deeply about the impact that the actions of state government have on the lives of ordinary people, and he carefully studied every issue. I could always count on Joe to give me a thoughtful analysis of any issue affecting the people of Monroe County, and I knew that their interests were always uppermost in his mind.

Unlike some politicians who try to justify their positions with one-sided spin, Joe Battisto took the time to explain the pros and cons of every issue to demonstrate his reasoning. Students and senior citizens alike left a discussion with Joe Battisto with a deeper appreciation for the complexity of state issues.

Joe and his wife, Virginia, have four children and five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the long history of Joe Battisto's service to the people of Monroe County and all of Pennsylvania, and I join his friends and neighbors in wishing him and his wife all the best.

TRIBUTE TO CHIEF OF POLICE STEPHEN W. OTT

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief of Police Stephen W. Ott upon his retirement after forty-eight years of service with the Cheltenham Township Police Department of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. His long and dedicated service to the citizens of Cheltenham Township has served as an example to all.

Chief Ott was appointed to the Cheltenham Township Police Department on May 11, 1953 and is the longest serving police officer in the history of the Township. He began as a patrol officer and then was quickly promoted to Sergeant. He was promoted to Lieutenant and later was named Chief of Police on February 29, 1980. His tenure as Chief lasted twenty-one years. He has been awarded the Bravery Commendation, which is the department's second highest official commendation that can be awarded.

During his distinguished career, Chief Ott guided the police department as it became the third largest municipal law enforcement agency in Montgomery County. He has been instrumental in adding many special operations units such as the Canine, Highway Safety, Community Relations and Crime Prevention.

Although Chief Ott's tenure began before the information technology age, he embraced technology by adding computers to the Investigative Division, police department operations and record keeping and dispatching. The structure of the department was also overhauled due to Chief Ott's foresight.

It is a privilege to honor the contributions of Chief Stephen W. Ott to the citizens of Cheltenham Township. Chief Ott has my sincere best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

THE NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the National Amusement Park Ride Safety Act, to restore safety oversight to an largely unregulated industry. I am joined in this effort by Representatives CONNIE MORELLA, JOHN TIERNEY, CAROLYN MALONEY, BARNEY FRANK, PETER DEFAZIO, EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, CYNTHIA MCKINNEY, TOM LANTOS, and JULIA CARSON.

It is shocking to realize that one-third of all roller coasters in this country are never inspected by any public safety official at all. These and other rides are large machines used to carry children at high speeds. Industry trends have been to increase the speed and the force of these machines to levels that exceed the forces experienced by shuttle astronauts. Although many of these rides are operated safely and without incident, nevertheless

every day riders are hurt, often seriously, requiring hospitalization, visits to emergency rooms. And occasionally, someone who went to the park for a thrill actually is killed by the operation of these machines.

To me, it is inexcusable that when someone dies or is seriously injured on these rides, there is no system in place to ensure that the ride is investigated, the causes determined, and the flaws fixed, not just on that ride, but on every similar ride in every other state.

The reason there is no national clearinghouse to prevent ride injuries is clear—since 1981, the industry has escaped routine product safety regulation through a loophole in the law. The industry carved out an exemption that says that while the Consumer Product Safety Commission can regulate every other consumer product, and while it can regulate small carnival rides that travel from town to town, it cannot step foot in an amusement park for the purpose of regulating a ride that is fixed to the site, such as a roller coaster.

This is the so-called "Roller Coaster Loophole", and it needs to be closed. The bill eliminates the restriction on CPSC safety jurisdiction adopted in 1981. It will allow the CPSC the same scope of authority to protect against unreasonable risks of harm on "fixed-site" rides that it currently retains for carnival rides that are moved from site to site ("mobile rides.") This would include the authority to investigate accidents, to develop and enforce action plans to correct defects, to require reports to the CPSC whenever a substantial hazard is identified, and to act as a national clearinghouse for accident and defect data.

The bill would also authorize appropriations of \$500 thousand annually to enable the CPSC to carry out the purposes of the Act.

BACKGROUND

The Consumer Product Safety Act provided the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) with the same consumer protections authority it has for other consumer products. However, in 1981, following a series of legal challenges by several owners of large theme parks, Congress stepped in and limited CPSC authority only to those rides "not permanently fixed to a site." Thus, the CPSC currently is prohibited from investigating accidents or developing or enforcing safety plans and manufacturers, owners and operators of rides are not required to disclose to the CPSC defects which would create a substantial hazard of consumer injury. Since it cannot gather the information, the CPSC is also effectively prevented from sharing the information with others so that accidents in one state can be prevented in another.

RIISING RISK OF SERIOUS INJURY

The CPSC estimates the number of serious injuries on fixed and mobile amusement park rides using the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). This data includes only injuries severe enough to have led the injured party to go to an emergency room. According to its July 2000 summary, emergency-room injuries on fixed rides increased 95 percent over the previous four years, and they rose most rapidly on the rides that are exempt from CPSC oversight.

When one compares the safety record of this industry to other activities that involve traveling—as a passenger at high speed, such